

724 E. South River Street  
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Church Office (920) 733-7393

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Website: [www.firstcongoappleton.org](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org)

Jake Close, Interim Pastor

Jane B. Anderson, Co-Pastor

Kevin P. Gregory, Co-Pastor

Siri K. Witt, Church Administrator

Kara J. Woodford, Director for Children's Ministries

Lyssa Fish, Director for Teen Ministries

Mary Kay Easty, Director for Music Ministries

Deb Burich, Director for Volunteer Ministries

Maynard E. Beemer, Pastor Emeritus

**WORSHIP CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2006**

**8:45 and 10:30 a.m.**

Sermon ..... Rev. Jane B. Anderson

Music:

8:45 a.m. .... Organ Scholars:  
Katie and Kelsey LaViolette

10:30 a.m. .... Tami Johnson

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2006**

**8:45 and 10:30 a.m.**

Sermon ..... Rev. Kevin P. Gregory

Music:

8:45 a.m. ....

10:30 a.m. .... Tami Johnson

The 8:45 a.m. worship service is broadcast over  
radio station WECB 104.3 FM.

**OPENINGS FOR BACK BAY MISSION TRIP**

There are still a few open spaces on the mission trip to Biloxi, MS in October. Consider joining us on this trip of *'rebuilding homes, rebuilding lives, rebuilding friendships and rebuilding faith'*. Toss in a lot of laughter and fun and it should be a trip you won't want to miss!! Contact Deb Burich for information or to sign up.

**UNITY IN DIVERSITY PICNIC**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19**

**12 noon to 3:00 p.m.**

**Erb Park—Appleton**

Be part of our community's diversity and friendship tradition for more than ten years!

Potluck lunch, games, music and more!

Bring a dish to share.

Free of Charge

*Rev. Jane Anderson*

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

**ADDS FIRST CONGO WORK DATE**

After the fun we had with the Women Build/Men Cook event in June, we are happy to announce a work date for Saturday, August 19. The work shift is from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Just as important, we also need people to provide lunch. The work site is 501 East Murray St., Appleton. Look for details and the sign up sheets in the narthex. Call Dan Haller at 851-7072 if you have questions.

**RALLY SUNDAY**

**September 10, 2006**

**One service of worship only at**

**8:45 a.m.**

**Picnic to follow**

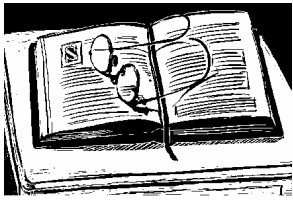
**Meet**

**Jake Close**

**Interim Minister**

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE  
OF THE OPEN DOOR IS 9:00 A.M. ON  
MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2006.**

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE:



Dear Friends,

This past week we welcomed into the Fox Cities a group of 18 teenagers from Ramallah,

Palestine, who, along with their four adult leaders came to share with us their stories, their traditions and their hope for peace in the Holy Land. These young men and women attend a school in Ramallah, called Al Raja, where Christian, Muslim and Jewish children and youth are educated in both academics and community building. As part of a larger campaign for peace, these students were chosen, to tour the U.S. and bring their stories, while also sharing their wonderful traditions of music and dance. They hoped that through their sharing we might be more aware and enlightened about life in Palestine. They hoped that we might see through their eyes and be touched by their experience so that our minds and hearts might know a different view of life in Palestine and the Palestinian people than what we only come to know through the daily press reports.

I believe their hopes were fulfilled here in the Fox Cities. Many of us were deeply touched by how these young men and women were able to come together, linking their lives, overcoming their sharp differences and divisions, and bring a message of peace and hope that indeed we can live as the people God chooses all of us to be loved and beloved. Their stories were heartbreaking and inspiring—a testimony to strength in the midst of hardship, of hope, in the midst of despair. They were testimonies of faith and the possibilities for peace and life in the midst of war and death.

I find it ironic that as the Al Raja tour continued, violence and destruction escalated in the Middle East. The conflicts and wars in the Middle East are ongoing realities that millions have had to learn to live with day in and day out, generation after generation. When such strife becomes an everyday reality, as it does for these Palestinian young people, it is often easier to just go into survival mode, rather than continue to hope and strive for peace. But, these young people have not given up and nor should we. It is so easy when we are deluged with reports and images of ongoing violence and destruction, in places far away from

our own neighborhoods, to simply tune out and turn off the immensity of suffering that is happening in Middle East and other places. But, when we close our minds and hearts, even in an effort to protect ourselves, we are closing off the possibility of relationship with other unique expressions and manifestations of God's self in this world. When we do so, we are shutting the door on God, who may appear in our lives in the face of the stranger and strange circumstances. My hope is that we will not let ourselves shut those doors, but that we will continue to welcome God into our lives through all people near and far who are expressions of God's love and grace. May we continue to make conscious and intentional efforts to support peacemaking efforts. Let us support them with our prayers, our resources and our lives so that one day, peace may once again come to the Holy Land.

I offer you this prayer, written by The Reverend John Thomas, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ:

Lord, have mercy. Kyrie eleison.

A Prayer for the Middle East at a Time of War

You did not make us, O God, to die in bomb craters or to huddle through the night in basement shelters. You made us to play under olive trees and cedars and to sleep soundly with animal toys and gentle lovers. Lord, have mercy.

You did not make us, O God, to hold hostages for barter or to rain deadly fury on innocent children and beautiful coastlands. You made us, O God, to welcome strangers and to cherish all creation. Christ, have mercy.

You did not make us, O God, to oppress in the name of security or to kill in the name of justice. You made us, O God, to find security in justice and to risk life in the name of peace. Lord, have mercy.

While leaders in Tel Aviv and Damascus, Tehran, Washington, and southern Lebanon pander to ancient fears, claim the mantle of righteous victim, and pursue their little empires in the name of gods of their own devising, the people of Lebanon and northern Israel are made captive to fear, true victims whose only advocate is You.

Save us from self-justifying histories and from moral equations that excuse our folly. Search our hearts for our own complicity. Spare us from pious prayers that neglect the prophet's angry cry. Let us speak a resounding "no" to this warring madness

and thus unmake our ways of death, so that we may be made more and more into your image. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

### JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

If you have particular joys or concerns that you would like lifted up please call Pastor Jane Anderson.

#### Those who need our prayers:

Katie Behl  
Florence Bender  
Bishop Michael Bent, husband of Jane Bent  
Donald Boya  
Janice Carroll's father, Sylvester Sawicki  
Ruby Cotter  
Arlene Danz  
Kathy Davisson  
Nancy Farrell's daughter, Ginger  
Sue Fields, mother of Melissa Mast  
Elaine Foth  
Darlene Fritz, wife of Rev. Tom Fritz  
Joel Garnier  
Les Gunter  
Connor Hardy  
Jean Harkins  
Gene Hoffman  
Carol Huebner  
Maxine Kellogg  
Mark Kessler's father  
Glenn Knaack  
Marilee Minahan  
Sandy Nichols, mother  
Sarah Paul  
Barbara Schuette, mother of Amy Bowman  
Patti Tochil on the death of her father, Doug Marshall  
Joyce Spurlock  
Rick and Trisha Willer

### BREWERS' TICKETS

Tickets are still available for the Milwaukee Brewers game against the Houston Astros on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:05 p.m. The cost per ticket is \$30. If you are interested in attending, please call the church office to reserve your seat(s).

*Rev. Kevin Gregory*

### LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITALS

2006

Wednesdays from 12:15 - 12:45

Free admission

- August 9**     **St. Bernard's Catholic Church**  
                         **Mark Sikkila**  
                         1617 W. Pine Street, Appleton
- August 16**    **First Presbyterian Church of**  
                         **Neenah—Nancy Siebecker**  
                         200 Church Street, NEENAH
- August 23**    **First English Lutheran Church**  
                         **Daniel Schwandt**  
                         326 E. North Street, Appleton
- August 30**    **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
                         **Marillyn Freeman,**  
                         200 N. Commercial St.,  
   NEENAH

### SUMMER READING IDEAS

*Paul's Call: How Saul Became A Christian*

By Kathleen Long Bostrom

In Seuss-style rhyme, Ms. Bostrom effectively retells the bible story of Saul/Paul's life and conversion. "And those Christians would gather, all night and all day. And they'd pray! And they'd pray! Pray! Pray! Pray! They pray for their friends, and their enemies, too and this was something that Saul could not quite stand to do." In the end, the book brings the Bible story of Paul back to the reader, asking each how he or she can share the good news with others, just as Paul did. The illustrations are creatively humorous, making this book a real visual treat.

For ages 4-9 and it is found in the Pink Sticker section of the library.

*Finding God in the Movies: 33 Films of Reel Faith*

By Catherine Barsotti and Robert Johnston

This is an excellent guide book for movie lovers who want to find and share God. Well written and easy to use, each movie guide provides the reader with category descriptions such as humor, trust and community. Length, rating, and actors are listed, followed by a synopsis. This is an important reference for youth and small group leaders to use.

For Teens, youth leaders and adults. Found in the New Book section of the library. 320 pages.

*Ruth Martin*

## (A FEW) IMPRESSIONS FROM KENYA

Five intrepid missionaries, Barb Boren, Cindi MacSwain, Gerry Krahn, Duane Hilber and Jack Harris recently returned from a highly eventful and successful trip to Kerio Valley, Kenya, our mission partner for the past seven years. Kip Elolia has been our guiding light from the inception. His presence was everywhere. In spite of being gone from Kerio Valley for a number of years, he has stayed connected, partly through our efforts here, and is very respected in the region which we serve. Just a few of the multitude of highlights of this trip:

- Seeing (and painting the interior walls of) the functionally completed church at Tot. We have helped, through Alternative Christmas Market, gifts of mortar and roofing material, to see the completion of this edifice which has been under construction for over 15 years. We had the distinct pleasure of being part of an authentic Kenyan worship service the one Sunday we were there in Tot, where we stayed. Gerry Krahn oversaw the painting process and got very close to the nine local men designated to help with the paint project, one with a crippled leg, on crutches.
- Getting a real feel for where their water comes from and how people use it. This was our primary focus. We went to the sources of their water—a mountain stream and a spring. Saw the channels and pipes for irrigation and all other uses, tested the water at its sources for bacterial contamination, salinity and hardness and gained the information needed for our hope to install a water purification system.
- Seeing the Youth Center building in Kapsowar which we had a big part in building in 2000. It is an actively used place. Observed two young people busily studying at computers in a room with four computer desks.
- Visiting Kapsowar Hospital and getting to know their very able hospital administrator, Philemon Kaino. Through his efforts, they are well along in the process of building a nursing school. Long term this will improve the quality and availability of medical care for the region, which at this time has trouble keeping and attracting good professionals because it is so remote and so poor. We

carried two boxes of only slightly used nursing books, donated by Fox Valley Tech, with us on the plane and presented them to Philemon and his staff. We likely will send more books over the next several years, giving them a start on a good library.

- Visiting the women's craft shop and bringing back a suitcase full of their fine work for sale here at the Alternative Christmas Market and possibly other venues.
- "Comparing notes" with other mission groups from the States at our overnights at the Methodist Guest House in Nairobi.
- Seeing previously clashing tribes—the Pokots and the ones we serve, the Marakwets—now co-existing peacefully, attending each others markets, using the same clinic. And seeing the secondary effects of peace—schools are thriving again, people are moving about freely and are slowly moving back to their homes in the valley after evacuating to safer places during the former hostilities.
- And finally, if not most importantly, making new friends and deepening relationships established as our partnership was established nearly eight years ago.

A trip back, probably next year, is in the early planning stages. We can only hope it will be as fruitful as this one was!

*Jack Harris*



## **PROGRAM BOOKLET AND CHURCH DIRECTORY**

The Fall Program and Church Directory Booklet will be ready at the end of the month. This year we will not mail the directories but ask that each household pick one up from the church office. We will have a table with a display on Sunday mornings in the narthex for your convenience.

# VITAL STATISTICS

## BAPTISMS:

EMMA MARIE BOWMAN, daughter of Brad and Amy Bowman, on April 23<sup>rd</sup>

SAMANTHA MARIE HEATWOLE SMITH, daughter of Vivian Heatwole and Donna Struck, on April 30<sup>th</sup>

PENELOPE LAURA WHITESIDE, daughter of Matthew and Sarah Whiteside, on May 14<sup>th</sup>

CHARLES JOHN CARR, son of Erik and Karianne Carr, on May 28<sup>th</sup>

MILO DREW RUNNERSTROM, son of Keith and Emily (Wollangk) Runnerstrom, on May 28<sup>th</sup>

JONATHAN WALTER BIELKE, son of Dennis and Kerry (Gresens) Bielke, on June 25<sup>th</sup>

PEYTON MORGAN SPINDLER, daughter of Jason Tonn and Amanda Spindler, on June 25<sup>th</sup>

CARISSA LYNN ASHMAN, daughter of Michael and Kristen (Mader) Ashman, on July 16<sup>th</sup>



## WEDDINGS:

DANIEL PLANERT to LEAH MENOZZI – May 6<sup>th</sup>

NEIL SMITS to KRISTINA FRIES – June 10<sup>th</sup>

COREY PERRON to MEGHAN JANSEN – June 24<sup>th</sup>

MICHAEL HIPPE to ALISON ZWIRCHITZ – July 1<sup>st</sup>

## BIRTHS:

LAUREN GRACE AAHOLM, daughter of John and Shelley Aaholm, on April 8<sup>th</sup>

JASMINE ABIGAIL FIELDS, daughter of Sean and Ingrid Fields, on April 21<sup>st</sup>

CHARLES JOHN CARR, son of Erik and Karianne Carr, on April 20<sup>th</sup>

ERYN PAIGE LEMMERT, daughter of Glen and Jennifer Lemmert, on June 20<sup>th</sup>

## DEATHS:

JULIA (MRS. DONALD) MANIER – April 23<sup>rd</sup>

GEORGE WEGENKE – April 26<sup>th</sup>

MARY ELLEN (MRS. WILLIAM) DUCKLOW – May 8<sup>th</sup>

CYNTHIA (MRS. JAMES) SVETLAUSKAS – May 26<sup>th</sup>

DONALD CHURCHILL – June 22<sup>nd</sup>

## NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED ON APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>:

Janice Evers	Joan Radford
Brian Frame	Gary Wisneski
Summer Frame	Susan Wisneski

## NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED ON MAY 7<sup>th</sup>:

Carol Cavanaugh	Emily Runnerstrom
Richard Ronning	Keith Runnerstrom

## NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED ON JULY 23<sup>rd</sup>:

Sarah Boge	Shannon Glenn
Annette Boller	Greg Larson
Kelly Czechowicz	Jamie Larson
Peggy Czechowicz	Jason Moseman
Bernie Edmonds	Brad Walschinski
Kristine Glenn	Jennifer Walschinski

**NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED BY THE RITE  
OF CONFIRMATION ON MAY 21<sup>st</sup>:**

Anna Berceau	Wilson Molitor
Grant Blasczyk	Alyssa Panzer
Mitchell Bruckmoser	Kelsey Parker
Lucas Coenraad	Emma Petersen-Gauthier
Brian Coon	Rachel Peterson
Kristin Eggen	Kaleigh Post
Allen Gorman	Andrew Rowland
Andrea Gorman	Charlie Bo Scott
Veronica Havard	Kate Shropshire
Christopher Huffman	Samantha Smith
Vincent Huth	Katie Subert
Marlena Johnson	Kelli Thaldorf
Charles Karch	Clayton Thompson
Caitlin Kempfert	Taylor Thompson
Shannon Kolash	Britni Totzke
Grant Kratzer	Christopher Verhyen
Corey Macrander	Joseph Wettstein
Nicole Mauthe	Matthew Wittman
Mitchell Miller	Jacob Woodford

**CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION  
IS DUE!!**



Registration forms were sent to each church family in June. If you did not receive registration forms, please call or email Kara as soon as possible. While we accept new registrations all year long, we do ask that you register your children as early as possible to help us plan for the upcoming year. Even though the official deadline has passed, please return your forms as soon as possible! All students who register for church school will receive a free “Still speaking” T-shirt this fall!